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Weekly Bulletin

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EDITOR

### Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Cases Reported.

Two cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever have been reported, recently, in the northeastern part of California, where the disease is endemic. It is also endemic in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and Wyoming. It has been found in South Dakota, Washington and British Columbia. The disease is transmitted by wood-ticks and occurs during the spring and early summer. Preventive measures lie, chiefly, in those that have to do with the control of wood-ticks—disinfestation of domestic animals, clearing and cultivation of land, destruction of brush, etc.

A vaccine for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever has been developed recently by Dr. Noguchi of the Rockefeller Foundation. This vaccine is available in Montana for any resident who wishes to be vaccinated against the disease.

The United States Public Health Service is conducting investigations into the disease at the service laboratory in Hamilton, Montana. It has been determined here, that tuleraemia may be transmitted by the wood-tick, in addition to Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and "tick paralysis." These investigations will be continued during the spring and summer.

"He spent his health to get his wealth  
And then by might and main  
He turned around and spent his wealth  
To get his health again."

### Facts About Measles Worth Remembering.

Five facts that everyone should know about measles are reprinted here from Hygeia:

1. The disease is highly contagious, perhaps even more than is smallpox, requiring only that a susceptible person come into the same room with a measles patient; resisting ordinary methods of control by isolation, and stopping only when no nonimmune person is exposed.
2. It is confined to childhood simply because most adults have once had the disease. This is especially true in cities where the chances for exposure are greater.
3. It is, when well cared for, rarely fatal, but when inadequately treated measles may rank in its fatality among the greatest plagues of the world.
4. Pneumonia is the most common disease following measles and such pneumonia cases are more fatal than other pneumonias.
5. Freedom from measles is claimed to lengthen life.

The Detroit Department of Health says:

"There are nearly 100,000 more persons immune to smallpox in Detroit today than there were a few months ago.

Of this number, approximately 1000 are immune because they have had smallpox. The rest are immune because they have had successful vaccinations.

It takes five minutes to be vaccinated; it takes some twenty odd days to get over a case of smallpox.

How will you have your immunity—along with the day's work; or at the expense of at least three weeks loss of time?"



### Scarlet Fever May be Brought Under Control.

Progress in the scientific study of scarlet fever, during the past few months, has brought outstanding results. It would appear that this disease, with its disastrous, life-long after-effects, is about to be brought under control. Not only has an antitoxin for the treatment of the disease been developed, but a diagnostic test, comparable to the Schick test for diphtheria, has also been devised and now finally active immunization against scarlet fever has been established. The *streptococcus* has long been recognized as a possible factor in the production of scarlet fever, but it is only the recent investigations of Drs. Dick and Dick of Chicago, that have furnished conclusive evidence against the *streptococcus hemolyticus* as the causative agent of this disease. These physicians have also developed the immunity test, which is likely to become known as the Dick test. Furthermore, their word has been confirmed in laboratories all over the United States.

The importance of these discoveries can not be overlooked and health officers may look forward, with reasonable assurance, to the time when they may exercise as direct methods in the control of scarlet fever as they now exercise in the control of diphtheria. This point of view may be a trifle too optimistic, at the present stage of the investigations, but it can be said at least, that the work of these Chicago physicians promises to establish new and better methods in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of scarlet fever.

Medicine has become one of the important wheels in the machinery of human progress, and it would be well for all to know something of its function. Interrupt our national quarantine, and within a few years plague, Asiatic cholera, typhus fever, and other infectious diseases which we have banished and continue to exclude would be taking heavy toll from the lives of our citizens. Permit the growth of large numbers unprotected by vaccination against smallpox, and faces scarred by this disease will be as common among us as they were in the streets of London before the time of Jenner. Let our cities neglect their water supplies, and typhoid fever, now almost moribund, will soon be filling our hospitals and cemeteries. Fail to provide hospitals for infectious diseases, and diphtheria, scarlet fever, and similar diseases will soon recover their old vigor and give an upward turn to the curves of death rates and shorten the average duration of life.—Victor C. Vaughan, M.D.

### Foot and Mouth Disease Unusual in Human Beings.

In some parts of California, people are apprehensive concerning the liability of human beings in contracting foot and mouth disease. In order to counteract these fears health officers may use to advantage the statement of Dr. U. G. Houck of the United States Department of Agriculture, in charge of control measures against foot and mouth disease in California. It reads as follows:

"Human beings have never been known to my positive knowledge to contract the foot and mouth disease during its outbreaks in the United States.

"I do not apprehend any danger whatsoever that citizens of California or other states will contract the disease, for it has never happened so far as I know in any outbreak, although milk from herds in which the disease was found had been used by the families of the owners before the disease was detected.

"While human beings are carriers of the infection, this applies almost entirely to those who come in contact with diseased stock such as farm hands and people from infected farms. Ninety per cent of the spread of the disease is due to human carriers, and practically all of these human carriers are persons from farms where the disease exists or had been recently. The average city dweller or motor tourist should not be regarded a carrier.

"All meats, dairy products, fruit and vegetables in public markets may be considered absolutely safe. The public may be assured that a careful inspection of all animals and animal products being used for public consumption is being made by state and federal inspectors, and all meats on sale have been inspected both before and after slaughter."

"Thinking is the most hygienic, the most helpful and the most happy thing in life if done in the right direction, but if done to the exclusion of physical exercise, the body will soon stagger and the reason reel."—Elbert Hubbard.

"There are many things that can not be measured by a statistician, which makes for health, welfare and happiness of a community, county or city which has a good health administration."—Matthias Nicoll, M.D., Health Commissioner, State of New York.



**Poison Oak.****RADIO TALK No. 4.**

Poison oak causes one of the greatest physical discomforts incidental to camping and outdoor life in western states. Many other plants belonging to the same family are capable of producing similar skin irritations, but poison oak grows only in the western part of the United States. It is commonly found as a low growing shrub, but sometimes it attains a height of eight or ten feet. The sticky sap from poison oak, when it comes into contact with the skin of a susceptible person causes an exceedingly intense irritation. Some people are very much more susceptible than others, but the resin-like sap from the plant must come into actual contact with the skin, in order to produce the irritation. The sap may be carried indirectly on the clothing, tools and other objects.

Campers, particularly those who are susceptible to poison oak, should be careful to keep away from the smoke of camp fires if any leaves, roots or branches of the poison oak shrub are in the fire. The sap may be carried in the smoke in exceedingly minute particles and deposited on the skin, causing as great irritation as if there had been direct contact with the growing plant itself.

Insects may carry the irritating material from plant to man and it is said that the pollen from the plant blossoms frequently produces the characteristic irritation when such pollen comes into contact with the victim's skin.

The victim of poison oak whose face is affected certainly would take no prize in a beauty show. It is doubtful if any other skin irritation can produce a more rapidly acute temporary disfigurement of facial beauty. A red, swollen face, covered with a blister-like eruption, and red, swollen eyelids sometimes make the patient almost unrecognizable, even to his best friends. Most cases begin on the fingers. The hands and face are most commonly affected, but the eruption seldom occurs on the scalp or inside of the hands. The irritating sap may be transferred by the patient's hands to other parts of the body, adding to his misery.

There are many remedies for poison oak. Perhaps the best and easiest is the immediate application of soap and hot water. The application must be prompt and very thorough or else it

will only tend to spread the irritating poison. Gasoline is also said to be valuable for application to affected parts. Ordinary baking soda is said to be less effective than gasoline. Talcum powder may be gently rubbed on the irritated skin afterward.

Campers who desire to know if they are susceptible to poison oak, as well as all campers who desire to be protected against this irritating plant, may secure from their physician a preventive treatment which consists of the injection, underneath the skin, of a sterilized weak solution of the poison oak sap. It is said that the immunization thus acquired will last during the entire camping season, at least, and perhaps much longer.

**Santa Maria Starts****Diphtheria Immunization.**

Arrangements have been made in Santa Maria, by which children may be immunized against diphtheria, at a low cost. The work is in charge of Dr. Z. B. Coblentz.

"A servant of humanity has no right to be physically unable to perform his duties. The paramount importance of health for the adequate discharge of public and private duties can escape no one."

"It is probable that in a reformed public opinion of the future a breakdown in health, when obviously caused by excess of imprudence, or culpable ignorance, will be regarded as a species of bankruptcy and will be severely judged."—Ray Lyman Wilbur, M.D.

**MORBIDITY.\*****Diphtheria.**

199 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 48, San Francisco 42, Oakland 24, Stockton 5, Berkeley 7, Sacramento 15, Los Angeles County 10, Santa Monica 1, Monterey County 1, Vernon 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 3, Petaluma 1, Riverside 1, Alameda 2, Corona 2, Santa Rosa 3, Bakersfield 1, Watsonville 1, Contra Costa County 4, Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, Alhambra 3, Santa Maria 1, South San Francisco 1, Richmond 3, San Fernando 1, Fresno County 4, Madera 3, Santa Paula 4, Santa Clara 1, Butte County 1, Gridley 2.

**Scarlet Fever.**

179 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 49, Los Angeles County 21, San Francisco 21, Fresno County 15, Santa Clara County 5, Pomona 7, Oakland 8, Whittier 2, Alameda 1, Monterey Park 2, Glendale 2, Burbank 2, Manhattan 2, Stockton 1, Pasadena 4, Sierra County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Merced County 1,

\*From reports received on April 28th and 29th for week ending April 26th.



Tulare County 1, Berkeley 2, Long Beach 4, Chico 1, Alhambra 1, Richmond 1, Inyo County 1, Bakersfield 1, Taft 1, Riverside 2, Orange 1, Orange County 4, National City 1, Chula Vista 1, Sacramento 1, Corona 2, Colusa 3, Glendale 1, Anaheim 2, Kern County 3.

#### Measles.

1182 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 370, Pasadena 206, Los Angeles County 131, Alhambra 36, Berkeley 35, San Francisco 59, Long Beach 31, Tulare County 13, Lassen County 14, Santa Monica 13, Glendale 8, San Fernando 8, Glendora 5, Fresno County 8, Placer County 18, Sacramento 12, Riverside 5, Orange County 8, Lemoore 17, Corona 10, Colusa 10, Hawthorne 7, Huntington Park 8, Whittier 16, Oakland 21, Stockton 11, Colton 10, Santa Barbara 6, Glendale 9, Montebello 1, Anaheim 3, Kern County 2, Lindsay 1, Napa 3, Lynwood 1, San Bernardino 3, Chico 2, Manhattan 1, Redondo 1, Torrance 1, Compton 2, Monrovia 1, Trinity County 3, Solano County 4, Walnut Creek 1, Santa Clara County 2, Mill Valley 2, Richmond 1, Bakersfield 1, Taft 1, Watsonville 2, El Dorado County 1, Benicia 1, Dinuba 3, Alameda County 1, Santa Ana 1, Alameda 3, Redlands 1, Siskiyou County 3, Lodi 2, Coronado 1, Fowler 1, San Gabriel 2, Lompoc 1, Pomona 3, Los Gatos 1, Monterey Park 3, Sausalito 2, Turlock 1, Huntington Beach 2, Burbank 2, Napa County 1, Merced County 2.

#### Smallpox.

300 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 106, Los Angeles

County 36, Orange County 28, Pomona 5, Santa Monica 6, Alhambra 13, Burbank 10, Hermosa 8, Manhattan 5, National City 12, Corona 7, Huntington Beach 12, Long Beach 12, Salinas 1, San Bernardino 3, Covina 4, Lynwood 1, Glendale 2, San Francisco 1, Hawthorne 1, Whittier 1, Redondo 4, El Segundo 3, Redlands 1, Chula Vista 1, Colton 3, Selma 1, Vernon 1, Santa Ana 3, Pasadena 1, Butte County 1, Huntington Park 1, Anaheim 4, Kern County 2.

#### Typhoid Fever.

17 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Santa Ana 7, Los Angeles 3, Orange County 1, Monterey Park 1, Oakland 1, Calexico 1, Sacramento 1, San Joaquin County 2.

#### Whooping Cough.

36 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Stockton 7, Ventura County 1, San Bernardino 2, Lynwood 1, Oakland 1, Pasadena 3, Los Angeles 3, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles County 4, Manhattan 1, Alameda County 1, Alameda 3, Santa Ana 2, San Francisco 1, Anaheim 4, Santa Barbara 1.

#### Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

Berkeley reported one case of cerebrospinal meningitis.

#### Epidemic Encephalitis.

Two cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 1, Los Angeles 1.

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

DISEASES.	1924				1923			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending April 26 received by April 29	Week ending			Reports for week ending April 28 received by May 1
	April 5	April 12	April 19		April 7	April 14	April 21	
Anthrax	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	6	2	0	1	4	6	4	1
Chickenpox	437	451	409	359	301	330	298	266
Diphtheria	214	243	236	199	158	172	146	133
Dysentery (Bacillary)	4	0	2	0	4	2	3	3
Epidemic Encephalitis	7	0	6	2	7	4	3	1
Epidemic Jaundice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gonorrhoea	159	105	66	58	114	127	74	76
Influenza	26	33	18	17	211	105	124	73
Leprosy	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Malaria	0	3	4	1	0	4	8	2
Measles	1298	1671	1280	1182	1113	1014	1092	1022
Mumps	86	69	65	61	34	39	23	33
Pneumonia	156	89	64	55	67	61	96	40
Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	278	268	224	179	216	143	163	147
Smallpox	280	412	376	300	34	49	8	18
Syphilis	155	125	105	84	146	104	87	53
Tuberculosis	179	278	215	262	188	151	240	145
Typhoid Fever	83	19	22	17	7	9	11	5
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	59	57	42	36	220	209	192	201
Totals	3430	3827	3135	2813	2826	2531	2572	2220

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